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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
08/480,461	06/07/1995	GARY K. MICHELSON	P-12550-(DIV	9274

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EXAMINER

BROWN, MICHAEL A

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3764

DATE MAILED: 04/06/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

08/480,461

Applicant(s)

MICHELSON, GARY K.

Examiner

Michael Brown

Art Unit

3764

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 90 and 95-240 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 90 and 140 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 114-115, 138 and 237-240 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) See Continuation Sheet is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) See Continuation Sheet is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_.

Continuation of Disposition of Claims: Claims rejected are 95-103,106,108-113,116-121,124-127,132,135-137,139,181-185,188-193,196-199,201-203,205-207,209-213,216-221,224-233 and 236.

Continuation of Disposition of Claims: Claims objected to are 104,105,107,122,123,128,133,134,141-180,186,187,194,195,200,204,208,214,215,222,223 and 235.

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 95-97, 99-103 and 106 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Jacobson.

Jacobson discloses in figures 1-20 a spinal distractor comprising a body 31, at least one disc penetrating extension 33, means (35, 36) for limiting penetration of the disc penetrating extensions, that includes a shoulder (the outer circumference of 35), the body has a longitudinal passageway 32, the body includes a means (protuberances, col. 10, lines 25 that mate with grooves on an extraction device 42,) for engaging.

Jacobson discloses in figures 1-20 as recited in claim 102, a spinal distractor comprising a body 46, at least one disc penetrating extension 33, a guide 30 having an opening 32 and a bone removal device 60.

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 95-101, 108-113, 116-121, 124-127, 129-132, 135-136, 139, 181-185, 188-193, 196-199, 201-203, 205-206, 209-213, 216-221, 224-233 and 236 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Brantigan '915.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 137, 207 and 234 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brantigan '915 in view of Goble.

Brantigan '915 discloses in figures 1-11 an apparatus for use in human spinal surgery, substantially as claimed. However, Brantigan does not disclose a tap used to form an opening in the vertebrae. Goble teaches in figure 6 a tap 41. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time that the invention was made that the tap as taught by Goble could be substituted for the self tapping screw as disclosed by Brantigan because both devices are functionally equivalent with respect to forming a threaded opening in a vertebrae.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 104-105, 107, 122-123, 128, 133-134, 141-180, 186-187, 194-195, 200, 204, 208, 214-215, 222-223 and 235 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 114, 115, 138 and 237-240 are allowed.

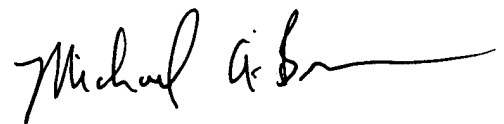
***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Brown whose telephone number is 571-272-4972. The examiner can normally be reached on 5:30 am-4:00 pm Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Huson Gergory can be reached on 571-272-4887. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

M. Brown  
March 21, 2005



**MICHAEL A. BROWN  
PRIMARY EXAMINER**